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**Scottish  
Machine Knitters  
Association  
January 2018**

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### **Obituary**

We pause for a moment to reflect and remember. The obituary for Mrs P. Fountain, very kindly provided by Mrs A. McCulloch



### **Cut, Sew & Applique**

Recap or first look? We have it here from one of our demonstrators at the October Workshop.



### **How to Organize**

Closets full of cones or black bags in the loft? We look at alternative ways of storing your yarn and how to keep on track of what you have.



### **Trouble Shooter**

Do you have trouble with anything machine knitting related or could you help someone out. GET INVOLVED!

## Chairperson's Report



Hello to you all and a Happy New Year. Hopefully, the weather is a bit warmer now that we are into January.

The next SMK event is the stand at the Hobby exhibition at the SECC from the 8th March to 11th March. This will be the last time that Bertha organises and runs the booth, but we are hopeful that someone will be willing to step in and help out in keeping the craft in the public eye. Again if anyone is willing to help out on any of these dates please get in touch.

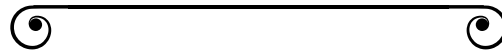
We will then have our Spring workshop, at our usual venue, in Alva on Saturday the 14th April. We would appreciate anyone who should wish to demonstrate at this event, again please get in touch with Jill Lothian, our Events Secretary.

There has been a change to the committee due to the resignations for personal reasons of Mary, who was the membership secretary and Luciana who was our newsletter editor, I would like to thank them both for their endeavours on behalf of SMK.

Moira Edwards



## Vice-Chair Report



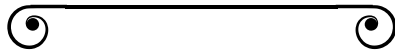
This has been a difficult time recently for those of us who have served on the committee a while. We become good friends.

To lose two good friends of long standing in quick succession has been quite traumatic. That is their legacy to us, if they hadn't made such a difference to our knitting lives we wouldn't feel that loss so much. It behoves us to emulate their example....Margaret liked to be accurate, precise, considerate, she ensured everything functioned properly to time and without fuss. Pat was a total inspiration to anyone who attended her demonstrations, or the Oban weekend.

Nancy and I went to Oban and attended her funeral service, joining the Oban Club, a small but poignant gathering where a selection of her talented work was displayed. I gave Trevor a condolence card on behalf of SMK in which I hope I conveyed to him and their sons our sense of immense loss, sympathy and understanding of their much greater loss, but also gratitude for all the work, effort and friendship she gave us. We should aspire to inspire and inform others in our craft, as they most certainly have, and our SMK Constitution states.

Carolyn Lambert

## What's on - Clubs



### Wester Hailes Class

The Wester Hailes class had their previous term at the Munro Centre in Edinburgh due to refurbishment at the usual venue. They are still unable to accommodate the class for the new term which starts back in January. If anyone wishes to attend the class or would like information then please contact Jill Lothian (see contact page).

### Glenrothes Club

Our next demonstration in January will be demonstrating and trying to create buttonholes.

### Perth Club

Our next club meeting is on Tuesday the 30th January and the demonstration is on beading by a club member.

### Ayr/South West Club

Ayr Club has been very fortunate to have Pat Fountain as our guest speaker and demonstrator to our Workshop and Club evenings, with Trevor too, and Cath Marr has kindly been their host. Her passing leaves a void which can only be filled by each of us assessing what we have learnt from her and putting that into practice....for each of us that will take a different path. Club nights this session have been topic related meetings, as guest demonstrators are in short supply! Members bringing examples and talking or demonstrating variations of a technique, rather than just one member demonstrating and having the stress and all the work. This seems to have been quite successful, with more folk contributing to the evening and sharing their experiences...good and bad. It is quite surprising how many ways there are of doing something on a knitting machine, and has encouraged long-standing members with vast experience but demonstrating nerves to participate, and those learning to sit at the machine and have a go under direction. Depending on the topic....I've been the expert....and the raw beginner. We close the year with a Christmas lunch at Prestwick Bowling Club.

### Kilmarnock Club

Meeting the first Tuesday of the month, we have recently been shown decorative joins, intarsia methods and will enjoy a celebration meal together early in the new year.

## Obituary - Mrs P. Fountain

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Many of you will have heard already that Pat passed on 22nd November. She arrived in Oban in 1995 and shortly afterwards became a member of our club. We soon realised that she was the best thing ever to happen to us! Before she moved up here she had taught machine knitting in the Manchester area for several years and was a real expert.

She was a great advert for her own talent as she invariably wore a beautiful piece of her own knitting. Always willing to demonstrate at our club meetings, she was very generous with her time when it came to helping us with any problems. Introduced to S.M.K. by Linda Thompson, who had been in one of her classes down south, she soon became a regular demonstrator at workshops and served as secretary, vice-chairwoman and chairwoman.

In addition, she organised residential workshops in Oban for many years and was the main tutor at the Helensburgh workshop when it was running. Also, she regularly travelled to other clubs and on one occasion even went, with Jill Lothian, to Northern Ireland. Pat was great fun and a good friend to us all. She will be missed very much by the Oban club and the wider knitting community.

Our thoughts go out to Trevor, who has moved back to Oldham, and the rest of her family.

Ann McCulloch.

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### Editors Notes

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We are, once again, into another New Year and we are looking positively to the start of this year. We welcome all of the memberships' input for your newsletter as without your support and submissions it can be hard to create variety.

Whether you would like to share your knitting dilemma or creative triumph, you will be welcome to submit articles and stories or even ideas of what you would like to see more of.

Feedback and constructive criticism are welcomed on the layout of your new design newsletter.

**Submissions for March newsletter by 20th February.**

Michelle Ferguson

## Tips



In this section, we will try and include tips for all skill ranges and if you have anything to contribute then please send it in.

\* When winding balls of yarn, finish with a long piece of contrasting yarn. This means that you will know when the yarn is finished and it also prevents the loss of stitches as the yarn can be pulled back to the beginning of the row and a new ball started.

\*If using mock ribs, bring all empty needles into holding position and E-wrap these needles. This stops holes from forming at the top of the rib where you changed to stocking stitch.

\* When doing a multicoloured garment, E-wrap each end back along the first few needles of the row before you knit across. This will save you having to weave in all those ends later

Jill Lothian

## Sales & Wanted



Scottish Machine Knitters Association cannot accept responsibility for second-hand items bought through the Newsletter, the Website or at a Workshop. This is a matter between the seller and the buyer.

### For Sale

Knitmaster YC-2 colour changer: £12 ONO

Knitmaster KR-6 knit radar, instructions scales and some paper patterns: £20 ONO

Knitmaster 360/260 LC : £60

Knitmaster LC-2 : £80

Knitmaster LC 580 - £100

Knitmaster 560 LC - £60

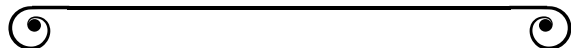
Michelle Ferguson (SEE SECRETARY INFORMATION)

### Wanted

Lace carriage for a brother knitting machine.

Contact Michelle Ferguson  
(SEE SECRETARY INFORMATION)

# Cut & Sew and Applique



I demonstrated and talked about this at the October workshop, and thought those who couldn't come might be interested, and for those who did, these were my working notes with seasonal alterations! It might also be titled – Fake Intarsia!

First and foremost my advice is to “keep it simple” and progress to more difficult work once you're more accomplished....I don't pretend to have got remotely close to that yet.

I just look at something I'd like to do and work out the easiest method, which, helpfully, often gives a more professional/purchased look.

Why...is the relevant question? Perhaps because purchased garments require simplicity of design and production process to be both affordable to buy and profitable to produce. Winter season sweaters for children this year are mainly plain knits with an abundance of decoration applied on top. Fabrics, felts, knitted pieces and embellishments (buttons, ribbon, beads).

For your own inspiration look at children's colouring books, intarsia charts, and punchcard design books and take note of the simple shapes used! Circles or ovals for heads, rectangles, triangles and ellipses. Don't wail...I can't draw. We all have coasters, saucers, egg cups...just have a wee hunt about for the shape you want! Hunt out that triangular ruler we use for making knitradar/knitleader designs, it has many of the smaller detail shapes you may want. Or if you're technically adept use a computer program like Paint or Designaknit. (Sneak a peek at the grandkids tablet for their art program and have a play).

Once you have a design in mind simplify it into as few basic shapes as possible, some of these may overlap to give the desired effect, i.e. setting a circle head onto the body, and positioning of arms, leaving extra detail to be applied when finishing.

## **Then decide on the method and finish: -**

Shapes cut out from fabric or felt.

Knit to shape.

Knit main shape, with cut out detail.

Bought embellishments.

Depending on the type of fabric used, some pieces may require little or no finishing, whilst others which fray or are cut out, can be overlapped, sewn, fabric glued, edge stitched.

## Cont.

### **Decide how to attach design to the main piece.**

Use a backing piece of fabric, interfacing, or light knit, to stabilise and build a multi-piece design.

Apply pieces directly to the garment, ensure you build your design from the background first working forwards. With smallest pieces applied last.

Use a running stitch to tack in position, or dot with glue, or lightly felt.

Attach by overlocking (with blades out of action), sewing machine overlock stitches, satin stitch, plain stitching by hand or machine, backstitching, felting by hand or machine embellisher or using fabric glue. All of these methods have their place, it is for you to decide on the one suitable for your project, dependent on the firmness or fluidity required on the main piece.

A good way to practice is to do a design on a pocket to be attached only once it is finished.

Ideas that got me started: - Father Christmas, Christmas tree, Snowman. I was able to use chenille in black for a hat and a very knobbly white boucle for my snowman. The texture would have been difficult to use in intarsia as it was so different to the main yarn, but cutting out and edge sewing the pieces, and knitting to shape, it was a doddle.

Some of you will have seen my samples at the October workshop. Now that the festivities are past I'm moving my ideas forward too! Large and small hearts for Valentines Day, Ducks and bunnies for Easter, using yarn with the relevant texture.

Sort out old tension pieces for suitable knitted fabric to cut out. Discarded knitted pieces for practice. Search for felt for ears, tongue, eyes etc. I regularly raid the fuzzy felt faces box in the toy room! Beads, ribbons, buttons.

Practice your overlock stitching, and satin stitches, few are perfect on the first attempt! When you look at an intarsia picture garment with too many colours for your comfort zone, think about just intarsia knitting the main two or three and using these methods for the rest.....it's not cheating....it's reinventing the wheel.

For those of us who have been machine knitting 'a wee while' it's not all about 'new methods' more application of what we already know in a different direction!

Carolyn Lambert

## How to Organise



Do you find yourself with more cones than planned projects? Were the deals on your cones just too good to pass up at the time? Are you just a little overwhelmed?

We'll look at the different ways you could store your yarn and ideas on how to keep on track of what you have.

So the first question to cover is - Will it be on display or hidden away?

If it is on display, say on bookcases or storage shelves, you may consider using clear bin liners i.e. small pedal bin size (3-5 litre) to keep each cone free of dust. Another point to consider is whether the cones will be in direct sunlight for long periods of time as this can affect colour and/or fibre.

If it is hidden away in black bags or plastic storage boxes in the loft, then you could keep on track by creating an inventory. Laborious, I know, but once created it should be easy to keep filled in correctly. You could list things such as the thickness of the yarn, the weight of the cone, fibre content, date purchased and even cut a small piece to have as a visual reference.

That is a few ideas on getting around storage but what about organising it I hear you say.

Well, the second question really depends on personal preference - Where do I even start with the organising?

The first point before hauling all those cones out is to relax and plan your next steps. (there's no stash police here!)

So depending on personal preference you may prefer to sort your cones out by yarn thickness first, Quantity/ weight or you may prefer to have them categorised by fibre content. It really is down to personal preference.

The final and sometimes most important point to all of this is **BUDGET!**

Whilst it would be great to have storage boxes for ease of stacking sometimes sturdy plastic boxes can be a tad expensive and we have to settle on black bin liners instead.

Michelle Ferguson

## Seasonal Dish

### Black Bun

A traditional recipe for a treat which is often eaten at the end of the year at Hogmanay. But it needs to be made several weeks in advance so that it can mature. Indeed, it can be kept for up to six months if kept in an airtight container. Don't be put off by the formidable list of ingredients. It is relatively easy to make and every cook has his or her own variations on the ingredients.

#### Ingredients for Pastry Case:

12 oz plain flour (3 cups)

3 oz lard (6 tablespoons)

3 oz butter or margarine (6  
tablespoons)

(Note that if you don't want to use lard,  
increase the butter/margarine by an  
equivalent amount)

Pinch of salt

Half teaspoon baking powder

Cold water

#### Ingredients for Filling:

1 lb seedless raisins (2¾ cups)

1 lb cleaned currants (2¾ cups)

2 oz chopped, blanched almonds (Third of a cup)

2 oz chopped mixed peel (¼ cup)

6 oz plain flour (1½ cups)

3 oz soft brown sugar (Third of a cup)

One level teaspoon ground allspice

Half level teaspoon each of ground ginger,  
ground cinnamon, baking powder

Generous pinch of black pepper

One tablespoon brandy

One large, beaten egg

Milk to moisten

#### Method:

- \* Grease an 8-inch loaf tin. Rub the fats into the flour and salt and then mix in enough cold water to make a stiff dough (remember, it is going to line the tin).
- \* Roll out the pastry and cut into six pieces, using the bottom, top and four sides of the tin as a rough guide. Press the bottom and four side pieces into the tin, pressing the overlaps to seal the pastry shell.
- \* Mix the raisins, currants, almonds, peel and sugar together. Sift in the flour, all the spices and baking powder and bind them together using the brandy and almost all the egg and add enough milk to moisten.
- \* Pack the filling into the lined tin and add the pastry lid, pinching the edges and using milk or egg to seal really well. Lightly prick the surface with a fork and make four holes to the bottom of the tin with a skewer. Depress the centre slightly (it will rise as it cooks).
- \* Brush the top with milk or the rest of the egg to create a glaze.
- \* Bake in a pre-heated oven at 325F/160C/Gas Mark 3 for 2½ to 3 hours. Test with a skewer which should come out clean; if not, continue cooking. An uncooked cake sizzles if you listen closely!
- \* Cool in the tin and then turn onto a wire rack. Cool thoroughly before storing until Hogmanay.

Source - Rampant Scotland

# Trouble shooter



This section is for any questions you may have, whether you are a complete beginner, an improver or a seasoned knitter who could pass on your knowledge and experience.

No question is a "silly" question as we always continue to learn and pick up small hints here and there. So to get us started:

I have set a knitwear challenge of creating a lace dress from some luxurious alpaca/silk yarn. I welcome any members pointers on pitfalls that I may encounter. I'd be particularly interested in any tips for increasing lace, in pattern (for creating a slight flare to the skirt section) and any techniques I should know about.

Michelle Ferguson



ACRYLIC	CONE	LACE	RIB
BLANKET	DESIGN	MERINO	TRANSFER
BROTHER	ELECTRONIC	MOTIF	WINDER
BUTTON	INTARSIA	MYLAR	WOOL
CARDIGAN	JUMPER	PASSAP	YARN
COLOURCHANGER	KNITMASTER	PUNCHCARD	ZIPPER

C	Q	A	S	D	N	K	P	T	E	K	N	M	Y	N
H	O	O	I	O	E	A	J	L	N	N	A	Y	B	L
R	W	L	T	S	S	S	E	I	R	I	G	L	Q	L
C	I	T	O	S	R	C	I	E	A	T	I	A	L	B
O	U	B	A	U	T	A	F	G	Y	M	D	R	Z	Y
B	N	P	K	R	R	S	T	T	N	A	R	B	I	Z
K	V	I	O	K	N	C	L	N	M	S	A	L	R	O
N	H	N	R	A	L	A	H	F	I	T	C	A	E	I
S	I	T	R	E	V	Z	C	A	L	E	X	N	P	P
C	I	T	U	W	M	C	W	R	N	R	O	K	M	X
D	R	A	C	H	C	N	U	P	Y	G	E	E	U	G
N	N	W	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	L	E	T	J	W
Z	T	Z	I	P	P	E	R	O	C	N	I	R	U	M
F	I	T	O	M	W	O	O	L	O	A	T	C	L	T
R	E	D	N	I	W	Y	L	C	G	W	L	C	Q	E